

on them, beat them back, and making use of their recoil to escape, turned and fled for his life. His pursuers were close upon him, and after chasing him twice round the choir, headed him off and stabbed him to death on the spot. Perhaps the worst part of the bad story was that one of the attendants of the church, interfering to save him, was killed in the scuffle. The officers dragged the knight's body down the aisle and flung it out at the door.<sup>1</sup> The grave to which the monks carried him may still be seen on the floor of Poet's Corner. The outrage seems to have aroused Sudbury, for once in his life, to bold and resolute action. He excommunicated the Governor of the Tower and all his aiders and abettors in the deed, adding a special clause to except the King, his mother and the Duke of Lancaster, a suggestive implication that tended rather to incriminate than to clear them. The govei'iiment stood by their officers as firmly as the Primate by his clergy. The King ordered the reading of the excommunication to be stopped, and the church to be reconsecrated. The Abbot of Westminster, however, backed by the Bishops, refused to allow the place to be hallowed, and the monks' services ceasud for a while. The King ordered the Abbot to appear before hixn, but he refused to come. Neither was Bishop Courtenay a man to remain in the background in such an emergency. Every holy day, in spite of the royal orders, he read the excommunication afresh at St. Paul's Cross, and did his best to stir "up feeling against the Duke in London."<sup>2</sup> The affair at Westminster had given rise to an open quarrel between Church and State which continued till the Parliament met in October, when the whole question of Sanctuary was brought up in all its issues before that assembly.

The Parliament was held at Gloucester instead of London. The monastic chronicler declares that those who meditated an attack on Church privileges dared not hold this session in London, for fear that the citizens would rise to protect the Bishops and their cause.<sup>3</sup> It may be well doubted whether the Londoners would have risen to defend any ecclesiastical

<sup>1</sup> Wals., i. 377-8; *De Ecc.*, vii. 150; *Bot*, *P<irL*, ill. 37, sec. 27\*.  
<sup>2</sup> Wala., i. 379; *Cont. Eulog.*, 842.      « Wal»., i. 8SO.